

# April

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2018



*From the Collection of Homer and Betty Deabody Magic Lantern Collection, 1800-2006  
Special Collections & University Archives*

<https://scua2.sdsu.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=341&q=&rootcontentid=80350#id80350>

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

## In This Issue

<b>Toy Magic Lantern LED Illuminant Conversion.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>New Yorker Magazine .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Trying to Identify a Type of Glass Slide .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A Site With Many Animated Slides .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Old wood projector .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Education Lantern Slides Now Viewable .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Welcome New Members .....</b>	<b>12</b>

**W.H. Hutchings, A Little Humor series  
Manufacturer: Paramount Publicity Corporation (New York, NY)**



## **18th International Convention April 20th to 22nd**

**Join us to enjoy  
just some of the  
program events  
listed below**

**A historical overview of Victoria – John Adams**

**Edward S Curtis, The Picture Opera – Bob Winkist**

**Charles Chase and the Electric Cyclorama – Suzanne Wray**

**In Search of Franklin – George & Mary Ann Auckland**

**Reg Perry – a Boy in the Limelight Parade – David Donaldson**

**Scottish Spring show – Terry Borton**

**Bringing Light to Stanley's "In Darkest Africa" – Dick Moore**

**The Adventures of a 'Slipper' in Sierra Leone – Mary Borgo Ton**

## Toy Magic Lantern LED Illuminant Conversion

**From Stephen Herbert**

s-herbert@easynet.co.uk

Hi David,

For the E-Publication some time? You might be interested to give this link to a video showing a toy magic lantern LED illuminant conversion that I did recently. Project suitable only for those with electrical or electronic workshop experience. Note that this was for UK 240v, but the process is the same for other voltages. Parts from eBay, or your favourite supplier. The video is for general guidance only - for every project there will be a slightly different way to use these LED chips. For this one, the power cord (joined to the driver input wires) leaves the base of the lantern and will go through a hole in the top of an enclosed wooden stand (where there is a mains power supply) with extra protective sleeving at that point. This was a bench test - for the final version, I will replace the plastic joiner inside the lantern with a ceramic joining block. For this kind of project the LED driver can be inside or outside of the lantern body. If the mains power cord goes inside the lantern or is accessible, suitable earthing (ground) protection should be provided. For extra safety I would recommend a separate RCD socket adapter, if applicable to your power supply situation. Be sure to observe electrical safety procedures.



(Sorry about all the electrical warnings, but probably necessary.)

Best wishes,

Stephen

If being used in public, the result will need to be tested and approved by a qualified electrician.

The 10w LED chips keep cool with the size of aluminum heat sink shown. Bigger chips might need a bigger heat sink and a small computer cooling fan, with separate 12v supply. I have fitted a 50w chip-and-fan into a standard full-size magic lantern, and will send a link to that video some time soon.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnSVf\\_yu3zs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnSVf_yu3zs)

**From David Evans**

Hi Stephen

Thank you - yes, well worth adding to the next E-Pub. Do you plan to add a UV filter at all? You are probably aware that LEDs produce just as much UV radiation as they do visible light, and are therefore not recommended, nor approved, as illumination sources for museums & art galleries.

Nevertheless, I have installed Robin Palmer's set-up in our triple lantern for use in our

*continued next page*

## Toy Magic Lantern LED Illuminant Conversion Continued

Convention. Robin tells me that, due to the different wavelength involved, the condenser lens will not focus the UV at the same point as visible light, so effectively acts as a UV filter itself. I'm not sure how effectively, nor whether a toy lantern condenser would be as effective as a filter as a full-size condenser.

Regards

David

### From Stephen Herbert

Re: UV - Yes it does become a consideration when slides are left in for long periods, by which I mean days at a time. Otherwise, I'm not convinced that it will do any harm for normal slide use. Maybe I'll do a test -might be interesting. Have a junk slide in the projector with LED light source for a couple of days, one side shielded and one exposed. Do that for different types of slide. Easy enough to do.

I hadn't thought about the differential focus of the UV and visible light.

A good point.

For the toy projector, we can use laser copies of the slides if necessary. In most cases, it will be used with new strip slides made by children.

I've also recently done an LED conversion on a standard lantern (occasional use for short periods) and also a Kodak carousel, which will



**Projected toy lantern slide**

be used within a display cabinet. The latter will be showing the same 80 slides for many hours in rotation, so total projection time for each slide isn't that much. Nevertheless, I've told the client that the slides (duplicates) will likely need changing once a year or so to retain contrast.

In the past, when using fluorescent light to illuminate slides in display cabinets, I've used sheet UV filter as a buffer. I'm a bit concerned about the Dubai Museum of the Moving Image, where all lighting is LED (I had no experience of LEDs when they set that up) and I'll be sending a note about filtration. In some middle east countries there is now

no option but to use LEDs, as the electrical saving is, I've been told, a legal requirement (due to massive electric requirements of the air conditioning plants). I wanted to use some incandescent lamps for a forthcoming museum project in Bahrain, but not allowed. The LEDs in some cabinets will be filtered instead.

Despite the UV situation, I'm a fan of LEDs for projection on grounds of cost, lower heat, etc.

Modern museum LED lighting is being widely adopted:

<http://www.lighting.philips.com/main/systems/system-areas/museums>

though some are still cautious.

### From David Evans

Hi Stephen

Personally I agree with you. I think, though have no proof, that UV will have less impact on images than heat! I don't intend to worry about it either, but do let me know the result of any experiments you carry out.

Regards

David



## Farewell to Two Masters of the Magic Lantern



### From Patricia Bellinger

Dear Friends,

Please enjoy this lovely piece by actor, magician, collector and dear friend Ricky Jay, which appeared in yesterday's New Yorker Magazine, celebrating Dick Balzer and a dear friend, Mervyn Heard.

Patti

Farewell to Two Masters of the Magic Lantern  
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/farewell-to-two-masters-of-the-magic-lantern>

## Linde Judson and the Magic Lantern Castle Update

From Steve Barnes



Linde can't make the convention this year, as she is going to Germany in April. She asked me to tell everyone hello for her & she misses them all. The Castle is closed and all items were donated to the "Witte Museum" in San Antonio. They are not yet on view, but they are to have some sort of permanent display of Magic Lanterns, but it will take a while as the Witte has just completed a significant renovation/addition. That was something Jack had been involved in & helping with up until his health prevented his involvement.

<https://www.witemuseum.org/>

## Magic Lantern at Canberra Archive

From David Donaldson

Hi Larry, I think the publicist may have changed the title from Limelight?!

But good to see the activity in one of the prime national institutions.

Cheers  
David Donaldson

**NFSA**  
for  
**ENLIGHTEN 2018**  
The National Film & Sound Archive  
Welcomes you to  
**Lamplight to L.E.D.**  
at 6 pm on Wednesday the 14th of March 2018  
This theatrical, hands-on event unites  
Science and Culture through the fascinating History of Film  
Witness the power of image as we investigate the technology & biology of  
vision & illusion.



Program highlight: a 120-year-old magic lantern which will be used to project hand painted glass slides – see a very early precursor of the technology that drives our beautiful festival of lights today!

## Trying to Identify a Type of Glass Slide

### From Valerie Burnes

vpburnes@gmail.com

Greetings,  
I bought a box of glass slides at an auction, but have not had any luck identifying what type of slide they are. They are smaller than any of the other slides listed on your main page. These slides measure 3.5" long and just under 1/2" high. They do not have color on them. The set I have has 2 slides of photos of presidents, and 10 slides of famous paintings, mostly portraits. I'm glad to send photos if that will help. If someone could let me know which direction to start looking, I would be very grateful. Thank you for your time.

Hi David,

Thank you so much for such a quick response.

I've attached a few photos and look forward to your reply. As a reminder, the slides are 3.5" long and 1/2" high. Thank you, again!

-Valerie Burnes

**Help ID  
These Slides!**



David,

Thanks for your feedback. I would be thrilled for the slides to make it into the April E-Publication so we can solve their mystery. Let me know if you need more pictures, or better pictures than those I sent previously.

-Valerie Burnes

### From David Evans

Dear Valerie

Thank you for contacting us. Most slides of that sort of size were for children's "toy" lanterns, many of them made in Germany around 1900. Yes, please do send some pictures. We may well be able to identify the maker, or type of lantern, for you.

Regards

David Evans

Hi Valerie

To be honest, I don't know what these are. They look like quite high quality photographs on glass, as if they might be contact prints from a film negative. The odd thing though is the size. 1/2" is 12.7 mm, and there is no standard film of that size, so it can't be that. The quality looks too high to be children's slides. Anyway, kids probably wouldn't be too excited by pictures of presidents.

I suggest we put your pictures in our next E-Publication (April) and hope that one of our members has an idea about them.

Regards

David Evans

Secretary-Treasurer

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

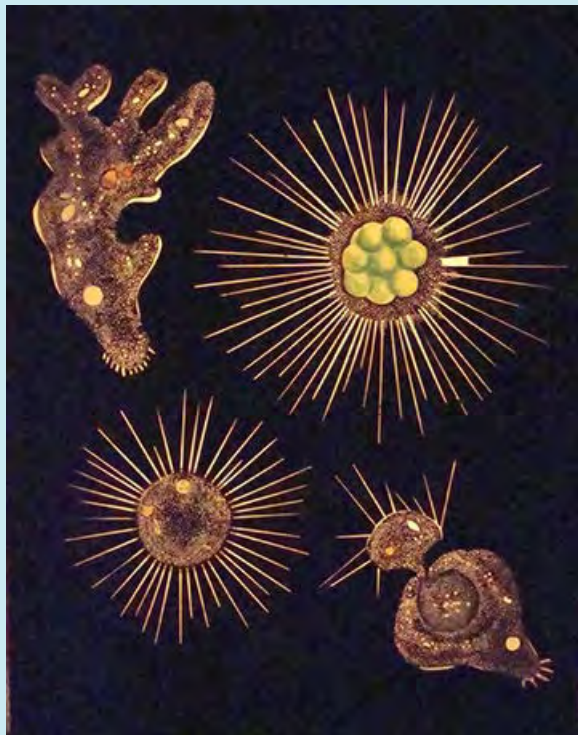
dwinwoodevans@aol.com



# Painted Transparencies

From Kentwood D. Wells

Painted transparencies as an alternative to magic lantern slides for illustrating science lecture:



[http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/news/school/title\\_207677\\_en.html](http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/news/school/title_207677_en.html)

In my recent Gazette articles on Dionysius Lardner and the oxyhydrogen microscope, I discussed the complicated use of the term “transparency” in the early 19th century. In some cases, as with Lardner’s lectures, the term was used for magic lantern slides, but in other cases, the term referred to large painted back-lit transparencies mounted in wooden frames for display to a lecture audience. An interesting web page shows a collection of such painted transparencies used by a biologist to illustrate his lectures in the late 19th century. These are in near-perfect condition and provide a spectacular example of scientific illustration.

Kentwood D. Wells



## Old wood projector - Europe

### From Petr Hojac

hojacpetr@gmail.com

I got contact on your website from Dan (Antiquecameras.net). I bought one old wood projector in my city six months ago but I didn't find any information about it on web. Unfortunately there is no label, no mark, nothing on it... I'd like to know what it is etc.

Thank you very much for your answer

or

information what to do!

Best,

P.Hojac

### From David Evans

Dear Mr Hojac

Thank you for your enquiry. A lot of wood magic lanterns were made in England throughout the 19th Century, more than in the continent of Europe, where mostly metal ones were made.

If you could kindly send me a few pictures of it, we may be able to help identify it further.

Sounds like a nice thing to acquire.

David Evans  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
Magic Lantern Society of US &  
Canada



### From Petr Hojac

Dear David Evans,

thank you very much for your answer! Really from England? That's interesting.

Here are some photos of it.

Thank you!

P.Hojac



Dear  
Petr

Technically, that is all, as not a magic lantern at though it could be used one. It is actually a horizontal enlarger, used in photographic studios. You would put a quarter-plate negative in it and focus it onto a piece of photographic print paper to get the size of enlargement you need. Whether or not the objective lens would be suitable for large screen sizes could be established by trial. It might work quite well. I'm not sure it is English. It doesn't appear to have a maker's name on it, and it somehow doesn't quite look English. I am thinking it might be

French, though not certain. It would date from late 19th Century. It

appears to be a good quality instrument.

Sorry for the delay in responding.

Regards

David Evans

*continued next page*



## Old wood projector - Europe continued



**From Petr Hojac**  
hojacpetr@gmail.com

Dear David,

thank you very much for your answer! I am now a bit smarter... I didn't know this item was used in a photographic studios. I have also some Laterna magicas (especially German models Bavaria) from late 19th Century but unfortunately not in good condition. I thought to become a member of your Magic Lantern Society but for me is now too far from Europe to visit you for a meeting etc. Maybe later until my children grow up and I will have more time for my activities. It's great that your Society exists!!! I am a big fan of old projectors etc.

Best,

Petr

**From David Evans**

Dear Petr

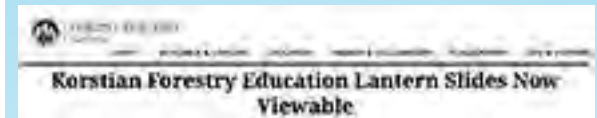
You might find membership of the (British) Magic Lantern Society more useful to you. They have a number of German and other European members, and probably easier for you to go to UK for meetings.

Try [magiclantern.org.uk](http://magiclantern.org.uk) We would have enjoyed having you as a member!

Kind regards

David Evans

## Education Lantern Slides Now Viewable



<https://foresthistory.org/korstian-forestry-education-lantern-slides-now-viewable/>



From the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, lecturers often used glass lantern slides to illustrate their topics. Photographs were copied onto glass plates to make the slides, which would then be used with a projector to cast images onto walls or large screens. First developed in 1849, this process allowed for large groups of people to view photographs at the same time. This new technology was a no-brainer for lecturers. Large audiences now had a visual aid, one that was oftentimes further enhanced through color. Professional colorists hand-tinted the slides, producing colorized photos long before the invention of color film.

## What Types of Paints and Inks Were Used on 'Painted' Slides Back in the 19th Century

### From Larry Cederblom

There were three types of coloring systems for slides. They were watercolors, oil paints and dyes. The key for these materials, that they needed to be transparent. Varnish was mixed with oil paints in order to render them transparent. According to one source lump sugar would be dissolved in water to form a syrup for mixing and thinning watercolors. Slide-painters generally use varnish colors, and there is no doubt that these are the best, because they are the most durable. Watercolors were protected by a coat of varnish.

There were many brands of these artist materials. Examples and images of the various products and materials that were available are shown on the web site: <https://www.luikerwaal.com>. As shown in the far right column.

There were two types of colored slides. First there is the hand painted, which is identified by the way the color is applied. The second is the hand colored b&w slide which is a tinting of the photograph image.

Colors were applied by brushes, stumps and fingers. These were applied by dabbing and stippling with these tools.

### Hand painted



Transparent color applied in multiply application to achieve shadow areas

### Hand tinted



Transparent color applied as tint using the shadow area to make the color look darker.



### Painting and colouring the magic lantern slides.

[https://www.luikerwaal.com/newframe\\_uk.htm?painting1\\_uk.htm](https://www.luikerwaal.com/newframe_uk.htm?painting1_uk.htm)

at link scroll down to Various and select Painting and colouring the magic lantern slides.







## Slide Demonstrations

**From: Linda Jennings**  
lindarj180@gmail.com

Hi, I have recently become the education coordinator for Friends of Hearthside in Lincoln, RI. On site we have a one room schoolhouse. A school set of magic lantern slides in a beautiful oak cabinet and a carbon arc projector has been donated to us. I am wondering if there might be a member of your society who would be able to give us information about showing these slides and perhaps give a presentation to our members.  
Linda Jennings  
508.245.7970

### From David Evans

Hi Linda

Thank you for your enquiry - great to have that material in your classroom! The oak cabinet will, I assume, contain a set of Keystone slides, which were supplied to the majority of schools back around 1900 or so. They came with a small card for each slide with notes about the image for the teacher's use. Really sophisticated versions came with a set of stereoscopic cards with duplicate images for the students to use at the same time. There were several versions of Keystone sets at various price levels. Do you have the index book with yours?

Good to have the lantern too, but I certainly would not attempt to use the carbon arc! Apart from being potentially dangerous from the fire point of view, difficult to use and dubious electrically, they emit noxious

gases! Best to fit it up with a modern electric illuminant, such as a quartz halogen lamp or LED.

We can put your request into our monthly E-Publication. I'm not sure if we have a member in RI but we certainly have members within a reasonable distance and it is quite possible that one of them could help you.

Best of luck with it.

8-)David Evans  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada  
dwinwoodevans@aol.com

## PRE-CINEMA OPTICAL DEVICES



<https://graphicarts.princeton.edu/category/pre-cinema-optical-devices/>

Founded by an endowment from LeRoy and Janet Neiman, Columbia University's LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies promotes printmaking through education, production and exhibition of prints. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/arts/neiman/about.html> Twelve students and their instructor Ben Hagari made the trip south to visit the Graphic Arts Collection of pre-cinema and optical devices on Tuesday.

The class, Print into Motion, encourages undergraduates to "use printmaking techniques to create animation works, optical devices and projections." The students have already begun creating their own thaumatropes and other phantasmagoria. Future projects will take inspiration from our metamorphosis cards, transformation images, and flap books.





### *A Big Thank You to the following:*

Steve Barnes  
Patricia Bellinger  
Valerie Burnes  
David Donaldson  
David & Lesley Evans  
Stephen Herbert  
Petr Hojac  
Linda Jennings  
Kentwood D. Wells

*contributing to this months issue.*

### **Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

**E-mail Larry**

## **Welcome New Members**

### **Victoria Hunter**

10518 SW 132nd Place  
Vashon Island  
WA 98070

Ph: (360) 316-9126  
E: vnicanndrais@gmail.com  
Alternative Process Photographer  
Interests: all

### **Bob & Judith Winquist**

2311 5th Avenue N  
Seattle WA 98019

E: robertawinquist@gmail.com  
Retired medical doctor.  
Interests: Curtis slides.

## **Change of Member Information**

### **Mark & Beth Ayers**

7404 Townsend Blvd.  
McKinney, TX 75071

## **Welcome Back Returning Member**

### **David S. Brooke**

1206 Oxford Road  
San Marino CA 91108

who recently moved from New Jersey

## **2017 issues of The Magic Lantern Gazette Now Online**



The 2017 issues of The Magic Lantern Gazette have now been posted online, including the Winter 2017 issue that contains many hand-colored slides of Egypt by Harry Ostrander.

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/digital/resources/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette>

## **INVITATION FOR THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRECINEMA MUSEUM**



**April 7, 2018**

**www.miniczotti.it Facebook  
Prato della Valle 1/A, Padova**

